

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 45-54 without prejudice or disclaimer of their underlying subject matter, and please amend claims 28, 34 and 40 as provided in the following complete listing of the claims.

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).
10. (Canceled).
11. (Canceled).
12. (Canceled).
13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying synchronized contests involving characters associated with portable devices, the method comprising:
associating with a first portable device a first character having a first status level;

detecting a second portable device within a proximity of the first portable device, a second character having a second status level being associated with the second portable device;

comparing the first status level with the second status level; and

displaying on the first portable device ~~a synchronized~~ an animated graphical display involving of a contest between the first and second characters, wherein the animated graphical display of the contest is displayed as a synchronized single continuous event on both the first portable device and the second portable device, with an outcome of the contest being determined based upon the comparison of the first and second status levels.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the synchronized graphical display is separately displayable on the second portable device while it is being displayed on the first portable device.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein a winner of the contest is shown in the synchronized graphical display, the winner being based upon the comparison of the first and second status levels.

31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the first status level is adjusted based upon the outcome of the contest.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein a hierarchy module establishes the first status level.

33. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein a wireless tag module respectively transmits and receives profile information corresponding to the first and second devices, the

profile information accommodating association of the first and second characters with the first and second devices.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for displaying synchronized contests involving characters associated with portable devices, the apparatus comprising:

- means for associating with a first portable device a first character having a first status level;
- means for detecting a second portable device within a proximity of the first portable device, a second character having a second status level being associated with the second portable device;
- means for comparing the first status level with the second status level; and
- means for displaying on the first portable device ~~a synchronized~~ an animated graphical display ~~involving of~~ a contest between the first and second characters, wherein the animated graphical display of the contest is displayed as a synchronized single continuous event on both the first portable device and the second portable device, with an outcome of the contest being determined based upon the comparison of the first and second status levels.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the synchronized graphical display is separately displayable on the second portable device while it is being displayed on the first portable device.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein a winner of the contest is shown in the synchronized graphical display, the winner being based upon the comparison of the first and second status levels.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the first status level is adjusted based upon the outcome of the contest.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein a hierarchy module establishes the first status level.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein a wireless tag module respectively transmits and receives profile information corresponding to the first and second devices, the profile information accommodating association of the first and second characters with the first and second devices.

40. (Currently Amended) A portable device for displaying synchronized contests involving characters associated with portable devices, the portable device comprising:

a storage module, which stores an association of a first character having a first status level for the portable device;

a detection module, which detects a second portable device within a proximity of the portable device, a second character having a second status level being associated with the second portable device;

a hierarchy module, which compares the first status level with the second status level;

and

a display module, which displays on the portable device ~~a synchronized~~ an animated graphical display ~~involving~~ of a contest between the first and second characters, wherein the animated graphical display of the contest is displayed as a synchronized single continuous event on both the first portable device and the second portable device, with an outcome of the contest being determined based upon the comparison of the first and second status levels.

41. (New) The portable device of claim 40, wherein the synchronized graphical display is separately displayable on the second portable device while it is being displayed on the portable device.

42. (New) The portable device of claim 40, wherein a winner of the contest is shown in the synchronized graphical display, the winner being based upon the comparison of the first and second status levels.

43. (New) The portable device of claim 40, wherein the first status level is adjusted based upon the outcome of the contest.

44. (New) The portable device of claim 40, further comprising:
a wireless tag module, which respectively transmits and receives a first profile information and a second profile information corresponding to the portable device and the second portable device, the first profile information and second profile information respectively accommodating association of the first and second characters with the portable device and the second portable device.

45. (Canceled).

46. (Canceled).

47. (Canceled).

48. (Canceled).

49. (Canceled).

50. (Canceled).

51. (Canceled).

52. (Canceled).

53. (Canceled).

54. (Canceled).